

Overview of Hohokam Pottery Wares and Types

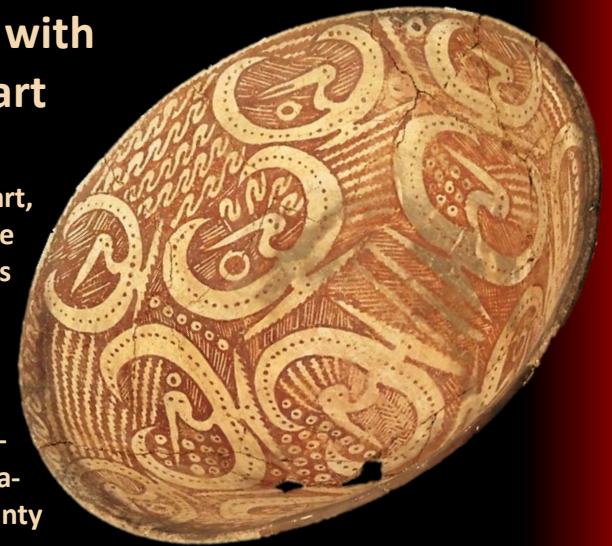
A five-session online class with
archaeologist Allen Dart



Old Pueblo Archaeology Center Executive Director Allen Dart, a Registered Professional Archaeologist, offers this class in five 1½-hour sessions to familiarize participants with the main kinds of pottery found in southern Arizona Hohokam archaeological sites.

The class features hundreds of pottery photos, definitions of terms commonly used in ceramic analysis, identifying attributes of most Hohokam pottery wares and types, reading materials and bibliographic sources on Hohokam pottery, and plenty of discussion opportunities.

Class sessions will be held online via Zoom.



COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of the course, participants will:

- be aware of the origins of the Hohokam archaeological culture.
- be able to identify some basic attributes of Southwest archaeological ceramics, including pottery components (paste, temper, clay bodies, slips, and paint types), pottery vs. nonpottery ceramics, paddle-and-anvil vs. coil-and-scrape construction, and oxidizing and reducing firing atmospheres.
- have a working knowledge of the main Hohokam pottery wares, types, and styles.
- understand some of the approaches archaeologists have used to classify ancient ceramics and use them for studying the cultures that made and used them.

Top photo: Partly restored Gila Butte Red-on-buff bowl with water bird motif (Arizona State Museum "Wall of Pots" video)

Above left: Rincon Polychrome jar with Gila shoulder (William L. Deaver photographer)

Above center: Hohokam thick-walled bowls (Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona, H. Teiwes photographer)

Above right: Cañada del Oro Red-on-brown bowl with exterior trailing lines (William L. Deaver photographer)

Online: 4 to 5:30 pm* on Tuesdays June 9, 16, 23, & 30, and July 7, 2026

***Arizona/Mountain Standard Time (same as Pacific Daylight Time)**

For more information contact Old Pueblo at 520-798-1201 or info@oldpueblo.org.

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RESERVATIONS AND PREPAYMENT REQUIRED

Your \$55 per person donation (Old Pueblo Archaeology Center & Arizona Site Stewards members \$44) supports Old Pueblo's education programs about archaeology and traditional cultures.

Registration and prepayment are due 10 days after reservation request or by 5 pm Saturday June 6, whichever is earlier. Zoom link for the class will be provided only to persons who have registered and paid. Children under age 16 may enroll in the class only if parent or guardian also enrolls.

VIDEO RECORDINGS FOR CLASS PARTICIPANTS' USE ONLY

Each Zoom class session will be recorded and the videos of each session will be provided to participants. To register for the course, participants must agree to not post any of the recordings or images shown in them to any social media and to not share them with anyone who is not a registered class member.

To register or for more information contact Old Pueblo at **520-798-1201** or info@oldpueblo.org.

PURPOSE OF THE CLASS is to introduce participants to the main wares, types, and styles of pottery associated with the Hohokam archaeological culture of Arizona. Emphasis is on recognizing some of the main attributes of specific ceramic wares and types. The class will not provide participants with enough knowledge or experience to be able to conduct detailed ceramic analyses or to classify Hohokam pottery specimens into specific types without error.

THE COURSE WILL INCLUDE sections on the origins of the Hohokam archaeological culture; some basic attributes of Southwest archaeological ceramics, pottery components (paste, temper, clay body, slip vs. wash, carbon vs. mineral paints); and discussions of coil-and-scrape vs. paddle-and-anvil construction, clay color, firing environment (oxidizing & reducing atmospheres, smudging), potters' tools, identifying bowl vs. jar sherds, pottery classification systems (ware, series, type, variety), rules of ceramic nomenclature), Hohokam pottery wares and types (buff ware, painted brown ware, red ware, polychrome, and plain ware), illustrations of various wares and types, and some research topics that have been investigated by pottery analysis.

INSTRUCTOR ALLEN DART – who encourages class participants to call him “Al” – is a Registered Professional Archaeologist who has worked in Arizona and New Mexico since 1975 for federal and state governments, private companies, and nonprofit organizations. Al holds anthropology degrees from the University of New Mexico (BA) and the University of Arizona (MA), and has lived and worked in Arizona since 1980. Since 1993 he has been the executive director of Tucson's nonprofit Old Pueblo Archaeology Center, which he and colleagues Carolyn O'Bagy Davis and Marc Severson founded to provide educational and scientific programs in archaeology, history, and cultures.

Al has received the Arizona Governor's Archaeology Advisory Commission Award in Public Archaeology, the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office's Site Steward Program Educator of the Year Award, the American Rock Art Research Association Education Award, the Arizona Archaeological Society's Professional Archaeologist of the Year Award, the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society's Victor R. Stoner Award, and other honors for his efforts to bring archaeology and history to the public.



Al Dart (left) with Arizona Site Stewards Wendy Thuring and Doug Newton, 2025 (Jessica Bland photographer)

